



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a transition between two or more ~~menu bars~~ graphical user interface (GUI) elements comprising the steps of:
detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application ~~having a first menu bar currently displayed~~ to a second application ~~having a second menu bar to be displayed~~;
~~updating~~ replacing a first GUI element associated with the first application that is displayed on a computer display to display the with a second menu bar GUI element associated with the second application in place of the first menu bar; and
in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between display of the first and second menu bars GUI elements, ~~such that~~ wherein the animated transition aids user recognition of differences between the first menu bar GUI element and the second menu bar GUI element are apparent.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a change comprises detecting a user-initiated event.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a change comprises detecting a mouse click event.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a change comprises detecting the opening of the second application.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a change comprises detecting the quitting of the first application.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise rotation animation graphics.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise scrolling animation graphics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise three-dimensional animation graphics.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[10]]~~11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a transition between two or more ~~menu bars~~ graphical user interface (GUI) elements in a computer graphical user interface, comprising:

means for detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application ~~having a first menu bar currently displayed~~ to a second application ~~having a second menu bar to be displayed~~;

means for ~~updating~~ replacing a first GUI element associated with the first application that is displayed on a computer display to display the with a second menu bar GUI element associated with the second application in place of the first menu bar; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, means for providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between display of the menu bars first and second GUI elements, ~~such that~~ wherein the animated transition aids user recognition of differences between the first ~~menu bar~~ GUI element and the second ~~menu bar~~ GUI element are apparent.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a change is configured to detect one of: a user-initiated event, a system-initiated event, or a mouse click event.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a change is configured to detect one of opening an application, quitting an application, or making an application active.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render rotation animation graphics.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render scrolling animation graphics.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render three-dimensional animation graphics.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three-dimensional animation graphics by utilizing gray scales.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three dimensional animation graphics utilizing gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing a program for providing a transition between two or more ~~menu bars~~ graphical user interface (GUI) elements in a computer graphical user interface that executes the following steps:

detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application ~~having a first menu bar currently displayed~~ to a second application ~~having a second menu bar to be displayed~~;

updating replacing a first GUI element associated with the first application that is displayed on a computer display to display the ~~with a second menu bar GUI element associated with the second application in place of the first menu bar~~; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the first and second menu bars GUI elements, such that wherein the animated transition aids user recognition of differences between the first menu bar GUI element and the second menu bar GUI element are apparent.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar ~~comprises~~ having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second GUI element

comprises a second menu bar ~~comprises~~ having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar ~~comprises~~ having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second GUI element comprises a second menu bar ~~comprises~~ having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.